



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN METH CONSPIRACY, ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a methamphetamine conspiracy and to illegally possessing an Uzi-style pistol.

Michael W. Lance, 40, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to the charges contained in a Nov. 16, 2004, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Lance** admitted that he participated in conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine between May 1 and June 25, 2003. **Lance** also admitted that he was in possession of at least 41.76 grams of pseudoephedrine and that he was an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm on June 25, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict to be in possession of any firearm. **Lance** admitted he was an unlawful user of methamphetamine while also in possession of an Uzi-style 9 mm automatic pistol.

Under federal law, Graves explained, **Lance** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph M. Marquez. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow